Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A system comprising an applier with an anastomosis ring device having proximal, center, and distal rings connected respectively by proximal and distal hinged arms, the ring device having a generally cylindrical shape when unactuated and a rivet shape when actuated, the applier comprising:

an elongate implement portion;

a handle connected to the implement portion;

a first actuating member of the elongate implement portion having a first set of prongs internally engaged to the distal ring of the anastomosis device, the first set of prongs being configured to deflectably disengage from the distal ring of the anastomosis ring device when the anastomosis ring device is actuated;

an arresting member of the elongate implement portion ~~internally~~ engaged to the proximal ring of the anastomosis device;

a second actuating member of the elongate implement portion having a second set of prongs internally engaged to the center ring of the anastomosis device, the second set of prongs being configured to deflectably disengage from the center ring of the anastomosis ring device when the anastomosis ring device is actuated; and

a first control coupled to the handle operably configured to cause proximal movement of the first actuating member and the distal ring engaged thereto toward the arresting member and toward the proximal ring;

a second control coupled to the handle operably configured to cause proximal movement of the second actuating member and the center ring engaged thereto toward the arresting member and toward the proximal ring;

wherein the first and second controls ~~may be~~ are operable to be selectively positioned to contemporaneously perform both of the following:

(i) reduce a first longitudinal separation between the center ring and a selected one of the proximal and distal rings thereby causing

actuating of the interposed hinged arms located between the center ring and the selected one of the proximal and distal rings of the ring device ~~while~~, and

(ii) maintain ~~maintaining~~ a second longitudinal separation between the center ring and the other ring thereby preventing actuating of the interposed hinged arms located between the center ring and the other ring of the ring device to configure the anastomosis ring device into a partially actuated ring shape having one set of at least partially actuated arms and one set of unactuated arms; and

wherein the first and second controls ~~may be~~ are further operable to be selectively positioned to reduce the longitudinal separation between the center ring and both the proximal ring and distal ring, causing actuating of all of the hinged arms of the anastomosis ring device.

2. through 7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The ~~applier~~ system of claim 1, wherein the first actuating member that is engaged to the distal ring of the ring device distally terminates in a catch.

9. (currently amended) The ~~applier~~ system of claim 8, wherein the prongs of the first actuating member that is engaged to the distal ring of the ring device includes a releasing surface responsive to an actuated condition of the ring device to disengage the first actuating member from the distal ring of the ring device.

10. (currently amended) The ~~applier~~ system of claim 1, further comprising a distal tip illuminator connected to the implement portion.

11. (currently amended) The ~~applier~~ system of claim 1, wherein the implement portion is dimensionally sized for endoscopic surgical use.

12. (currently amended) An applier for an anastomotic ring device having a center circular portion longitudinally connected by a plurality of proximal arms to a proximal ring and by a plurality of distal arms to a distal ring, the ring expanding each plurality of arms by compressing a respective ring toward the center circular portion, the applier comprising:

a first member having prongs operative to internally engage the ~~proximal~~ distal ring;

a second member having prongs operative to internally engage the center circular portion;

a third member operative to ~~internally~~ engage the proximal ring; and

a handle;

a first control on the handle operatively configured to position at least one of the first, second and third members to separately actuate the plurality of distal arms; and

a second control on the handle operatively configured to position at least one of the first, second and third members to separately actuate the plurality of ~~distal~~ proximal arms;

wherein when said center circular portion of said anastomotic ring device is engaged directly with said second member of said applier, movement of said center circular portion is constrained to movement of said second member;

wherein when said proximal ring and said distal ring are adjacent to said center circular portion, said first member and said second member are deflectably disengaged from said distal ring and said center circular portion.

13. (previously presented) The applier of claim 12, wherein the center circular portion of the ring device comprises a center ring, the second member engaged to the center ring.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The applier of claim 13, wherein the prongs of first and third members comprise a releasable engagement ~~mechanism~~ surface responsive to an actuated condition of the anastomotic device.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The applier of claim [[16]] 12, further comprising a cannula distally supporting the first, ~~and~~ second, and third members, wherein the cannula is ~~and arresting member and~~ proximally attached to the handle, operatively configured to distally receive the anastomotic device, and dimensioned for endoscopic use.

18. through 20. (canceled)

21. (new) The system of claim 1, further comprising a locking member extending proximally from the distal ring, wherein the locking member is configured to selectively engage the center ring, thereby preventing distal movement of the distal ring relative to the center ring, when the distal ring has been moved toward the center ring to actuate the distal hinged arms.

22. (new) The system of claim 21, wherein the locking member is further configured to selectively engage the proximal ring, thereby preventing distal movement of the distal ring relative to the proximal ring, when the center ring has been moved toward the proximal ring to actuate the proximal hinged arms.